

ENGL 313 Issues in West Indian Discourse
Short Response Assignment #3
Poetry

1. Discuss the overarching theme of identity in two or three of the poems we have read, carefully mapping and delineating the particularities of the African-centered identity the poets portray.
2. In the poem, "Guinea Woman," Lorna Goodison pays homage to African ancestry and lineage within a contemporary Caribbean context. Trace Goodison's poetic argument regarding the resurgence of black consciousness and discuss the elements that sharply delineate this shift.
3. Compare two poets' treatment of history. Comment on the main technique and/or device each employs as the organizing frame in the discussion of history and its importance in the Caribbean literary imagination.
4. Compare/contrast Marion Bethel's poem, "Rocks of Refuge," Eric Roach's poem "I am the Archipelago" and Kendal Hippolyte's poem, "Island in the Sun" regarding the theme of patriotism, national and regional allegiance. You may also wish to comment on other comparable or contrastive poetic/aesthetic elements engaged by these writers in delivering the theme of patriotism and national/regional allegiance.
5. Derek Walcott's poem, "The Sea is History" is a highly allusive work. Map the references that the poet makes and comment on how it thematizes Afro-Caribbean history in ways that valorize the drowned slaves of the Middle Passage.
6. Select two or three poems studied and write a response in which you explore how they thematize Caribbean spirituality, or any other issue in Caribbean discourse.
7. Ian Strachan's "Gloriana" and Michelle Cliff's "The Land of Look Behind" convey perspectives on the African/Afro-diasporic woman. Discuss synergy and divergence in these works and the elements used to deliver the central message of each work.
8. Christian Campbell erects a written monument in Robert Love's honor. Examine the allusive elements of this work, showing how Pan-Africanist sensibility informs and give resonance to his memorialization.